

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I first met Lonnie as a fellow attorney during my time as a practicing attorney in eastern Connecticut. His intelligence and compassion were apparent to me during the inevitable waiting time that lawyers experience in the court system. Based on that friendship, Lonnie in 2007 recommended a young attorney, Ms. Ayanti Grant, to apply for a job in my district office. Lucky for me, I offered her a job doing constituent immigration casework, and today she is the District Director for Connecticut's second district. I will be forever grateful to Lonnie for that fortuitous suggestion of Ayanti Grant, that has benefited thousands of citizens in eastern Connecticut.

Lonnie spent considerable time outside of his duties as a prosecutor serving his local communities. He is a member of the Board of Finance for the City of New London, a past member of the New London Planning and Zoning Committee, a member of the New London Schools Truancy Review Board, among others. He has demonstrated a commitment to the well-being of others and has helped guide southeastern Connecticut's next generation of legal advocates and civil figures. He became the First Vice President of the Norwich Branch of the NAACP upon its founding in 1963. He has fought for equality and civil rights for decades, having been a former President of the New London Branch of the NAACP. His work has paved the way for current and future activists to continue making gains for all residents of eastern Connecticut. Lonnie has lived through and helped foster great change in his lifetime, helping lead our Nation's continuing civil rights movement.

Outside of his career, Lonnie has demonstrated a passion for family, history, and the arts. He is the proud father of Lonnie Braxton III, who won the gold medal and silver medal in tennis at the National Special Olympics Games in 2010. This commitment to family runs into the past, as he is also the proud keeper of his family's stories and history. He is a renowned speaker and lecturer on the civil rights movement, African-American History, and African-American cinema. This history is crucial to our Nation's present and it is due to the efforts of historians such as Lonnie that the Nation can look to the past and continue striving to fulfill its great promises. Lonnie has also dedicated himself to collecting African-American movies from the 20th century. These arts have greatly contributed to the culture of the United States and we benefit tremendously from Lonnie's preservation efforts.

Madam Speaker, Lonnie's contributions in administering and advocating for justice within Connecticut's Second District are immeasurable and deserving of an equal amount of gratitude. His life and career, dedicated to public service, exist as an inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps. Although his retirement from the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice undoubtedly leaves large shoes to fill, he has demonstrated that the principles that have guided his career are larger than any one position. After such a long tenure in service, I also cannot imagine that his valuable insight will continue to go untapped. Lonnie will continue on to the next phase of his life with his family, his wife, Gwendolyn Bosco, and his son, Lonnie Braxton III. To these ends, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring, thanking, and congratulating Lonnie Braxton for his successful commitment to the

public well-being and safety. There is no better way to honor such a steadfast steward of our community than immortalizing his career through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois on their 25th Anniversary.

In 1995, Tracy Baim of Lambda Publications and Kevin Boyer of Communications Management, Inc. saw a need for a local chamber of commerce dedicated to gay- and lesbian-owned businesses. Joined by three other business owners, they launched the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Their goal was to have 30 members by the first organizational meeting in March 1996. By the time the meeting was called to order, the Chamber had grown to include more than 80 businesses.

Today, the Chamber serves a roster of over 300 members, and is still growing quickly. These members are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) business owners, as well as ally-run businesses. Together, member businesses employ over 2,000 people in the Chicago area, with gross revenues that exceed \$200 million. The Chamber fulfills its mission by promoting economic opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals in the state of Illinois by serving as an advocate and resource for businesses that are committed to equality.

On December 7, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois will come together with sponsors, corporate partners, members, and friends to celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. I am honored to have such an exceptional organization in my district.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HOUSTON PILOTS ASSOCIATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Houston Pilots Association. Over the last century, they have faithfully provided pilotage services to foreign and domestic vessels entering and departing the Port of Houston.

The Houston Ship Channel (HSC) is one of the narrowest and busiest ports in the world, with 21,000 commercial vessels and more than 247 million tons of cargo in transit each year. It provides 3.2 million jobs and contributes \$802 billion to America's yearly economy. In fact, more than 20 percent of Texas' gross domestic product (GDP) is supported by the HSC. The Houston pilots are responsible for

maneuvering vessels safely and efficiently to and from docks through the narrow and congested Houston Ship Channel. Without the knowledge and expertise of the Houston pilots, our great state would not be flourishing.

The origin of the Houston pilots dates back to 1916 when L. Fred Allien and J. William Laughton received gubernatorial appointments as pilots for the Port of Houston and Galveston Bay. The official formation of the Houston Pilots Association occurred five years later, in 1921, when four more men were appointed to ensure the safety of ships and their crews entering and exiting the HSC. Their work laid the foundation for future generations of pilots.

The Houston pilots are a team of skilled ship handlers, commissioned by the governor of the Lone Star State to protect Houston's most vital waterway. Since 1921, 251 pilots have proudly served the Houston Ship Channel. Their names, units of service, and years of service are listed below:

George Allien, Unit No. 1, 1921–1940; James B. Birch, Unit No. 2, 1921–1935; Charles H. McLean, Unit No. 3, 1921–1950; W. Joseph Weikerth, Unit No. 4, 1921–1933; Charles O'Brien, Unit No. 5, 1922–1952; Charles H. Baether, Unit No. 6, 1924–1946; Charles S. Borup, Unit No. 7, 1924–1949; Ezra Sherman, Unit No. 8, 1924–1936; Joseph G. Basquez, Unit No. 9, 1924–1938; Jesse S. Charpentier, Unit No. 10, 1925–1949; Audley Lancaster, Unit No. 11, 1925–1946; Leo Skinner, Unit No. 12, 1925–1952; Mason Wiggins, Unit No. 13, 1926–1949; George W. Allen, Unit No. 14, 1927–1943; Guy M. Stanton, Unit No. 15, 1927–1934; Edward B. Mercer Sr., Unit No. 16, 1928–1950; Albert S. Barrow, Unit No. 17, 1929–1935; Hugh C. Cage, Unit No. 18, 1930–1962; Nick J. Morina, Unit No. 19, 1931–1959; John R. Rowland, Unit No. 20, 1931–1949; Roy C. Blodgett, Unit No. 21, 1932–1960; V. A. Bujan, Unit No. 22, 1932–1934; Henry Corry, Unit No. 23, 1932–1961; W. E. Dunlap, Unit No. 24, 1932–1956; J. F. Cook, Unit No. 25, 1938–1956; Charles H. Fuller, Unit No. 26, 1938–1957; Coney T. McMains, Unit No. 27, 1938–1965; Holt P. Daniels, Unit No. 28, 1940–1957; M. F. Russell, Unit No. 29, 1943–1958; James E. McNary, Unit No. 30, 1947–1972; I.E. Wicker, Unit No. 31, 1947–1958; Charles Barfield, Unit No. 32, 1948–1967; David O. Duncan, Unit No. 33, 1948–1961; Kenneth B. Plash, Unit No. 34, 1948–1959; Merl E. Palmer, Unit No. 35, 1948–1959; Lewis Bennett, Unit No. 36, 1951–1965; Fred A. Parker, Unit No. 37, 1951–1969; Jack E. Rowland, Unit No. 38, 1951–1973; Curtis W. Burlison, Unit No. 39, 1951–1971; Arthur S. Borup, Unit No. 40, 1951–1969; A.G. Royce, Unit No. 41, 1952–1958; Edward B. Mercer Jr., Unit No. 42, 1951–1992; Thomas H. Bratcher, Unit No. 43, 1952–1970; William W. Steinhart, Unit No. 44, 1952–1984; Lee Roy Murray Jr., Unit No. 45, 1952–1984; Paul Collier, Unit No. 46, 1953–1986; Elmer C. Bell, Unit No. 47, 1953–1986; Robert D. Moss, Unit No. 48, 1957–1966; Harold B. Willis, Unit No. 49, 1957–1980; Philip Pizzitola, Unit No. 50, 1956–1996; Pat J. Neely Jr., Unit No. 51, 1957–1992; Robert E. Adams, Unit No. 52, 1957–1994; Thomas N. Lightsey Jr., Unit No. 53, 1957–1993; Leroy Arthur, Unit No. 54, 1957–1977; James C. Wall, Unit No. 55, 1958–1987; Jack W. Vetter, Unit No. 56, 1958–1991; A. Thomas Gibson, Unit No. 57,